



MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Wes Bruce

DATE: March 31, 2011

SUBJECT: Assessment Update

ISTEP

2011 ISTEP+

Test windows

Applied Skills 2/28/11 to 3/9/11 (paper only)

Multiple-Choice 4/25/11 to 5/4/11 (online 4/25 to 5/6)

On March 2, 2011 (11:15 am) we were notified of a Facebook posting of the Grade 8 essay prompt. It has been confirmed that the prompt was posted verbatim on Facebook the evening of Tuesday, March 1 for an unknown length of time. The essay was removed from the site by the time we were notified of the posting. We have also confirmed that the verbatim prompt was widely circulated via a chain of emails beginning at 10:20 am, March 1. Due to the widespread and significant exposure of the prompt we will score the Grade 8 test without the essay item. The short essay will still be a part of every students score. Students and schools will get reliable and valid English/language arts scores, but we will not be able to report a writing sub-score for Grade 8 this year.

Online

185,000 students will be taking the test online.

GQE

The final administration of the GQE retest for the Class of 2011 was March 8 - 10. Results will be available online May 11th.

End of Course Tests (ECA)

First Semester Test Windows

Fall 10/18/10 to 11/12/10

Test Counts - Alg. I – 2,951

Eng. 10 – 1,620

Bio I – 50

Early Winter 12/6/10 to 12/17/10 and 1/3/11 to 1/14/11

Final Test Counts

Online

Alg. I – 15,044

Eng. 10 – 11,030

Bio. I – 609

Paper

Alg. I – 19,072

Eng. 10 – 10,102

Bio. I – 389

It appears that the majority of testing during this window is for “retest” students.

Late Winter 2/7/11 to 3/4/11 (Second Trimester)

Online Test Counts - Alg. I – 2,470

Eng. 10 – 3,485

Bio. I – 3,355